

Ambiens, to secure the independence of Malta, have not yet acceded to that measure, I do not think myself authorized to put an end to the Government of his Britannic Majesty, until I receive special instructions from my Court.

"Your Excellency observes, that I wish to dissuade the Grand Master from coming to reside here. Your Excellency may recollect, that I spoke on this subject in the following terms:—

"On your observing that the Grand Master depended on having immediate possession of the Palace of Government in fort Vallette, I informed you, that under the present circumstances I could not accede to the desire of his Eminence, for it is absolutely necessary that his Excellency General Villette and myself should continue to occupy this palace, on account of the official affairs of our respective departments.

"I request leave to remind your Excellency also that I offered you, at the same time, the palace of Boschetta for the residence of the Grand Master, a situation which I should conceive to be in every respect proper for his Eminence, until the time when he should be able to assume the direction of the Government.

"But as the palace of Boschetta is not at present furnished, I took the liberty of suggesting, that it would be more proper for him to remain some time in Sicily, especially as his residence there would keep his Eminence only at the distance of a day's journey from the island.

"To conclude, your Eminence may rest assured that at the moment when I shall think myself authorized to surrender the Government, I shall acquaint you of it. I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Sir, your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant. (Signed)

"ALEXANDER BALL."

*Decree of the French Government, constituting the Colonial Government of Louisiana, (published at New-Orleans.)*

[This decree of the Consuls of France, has been published by L'Auffat, the French Prefect at New-Orleans. It may be considered as the present system of French Colonial Government; and it will be perceived that a despotism still less contempered than that of France is extended to the colonies. In France, the danger of popular commotion, the attention of all Europe, are some restraint on the conduct of a Despot Government; but in the Colonies, particularly in French Colonies, where a great military force can always be spared, there is no danger from the former, and their distance or insignificance leaves their complaints unheard; they remain totally at the mercy of a Government made up of the minions of the Government of the Metropolis, and possessed of the power of making laws for the Colony, imposing

assessments and enforcing them at the point of the bayonette.

*Extract from the Register of the Deliberations of the Consuls of the Republic.*

Paris, 24th Fructidor,

Year 10 of the Republic one and indivisible.

The Consuls of the Republic, on the report of the Marine and Colonies, decree as follows:

Louisiana shall be governed by three magistrates; viz. a Captain General, a Colonial Prefect, and a Commissary of Justice.

TITLE I.

*Of the Captain General.*

Art. 1. The Captain General has under his immediate orders the land and marine forces, the national guards, and the *gendarmerie*. He is exclusively charged with the internal and external defence of Louisiana.

2. He provides, provisionally, for every military employment, according to the order of gradual advance, as high as chief of battalion or Squadron, exclusively, and proposes to the Minister all the changes to be made in the superior grades.

3. He delivers all passports at Louisiana. He ordains every thing relative to military subjects. He communicates, in behalf of the colony, with the governments of neutral countries, allies and enemies, on the continent of America and in the Antilles.

He determines and ordains every year, with the Colonial Prefect, the necessary works and repairs of fortifications, the opening of new roads or communications with old ones. He decrees, in conjunction with the Prefect, the state of all the expences to be incurred in the course of the year, conformably to public exigencies, to be forwarded to the Minister with a sketch of the receipts necessary to defray the same. He exercises, in short, all the power heretofore attributed to the Governors General of colonies, saving always the exceptions in the present arret.

4. The Captain General cannot infringe directly nor indirectly the functions of the Colonial Prefect, of the Commissary of Justice, nor of the Tribunals; but he is at full liberty to exact from them every intelligence he shall deem necessary to demand, and which they shall be obliged to furnish, with respect to every department of public service whatsoever.

5. He can moreover, in case of urgent necessity, and on his own responsibility, supercede in whole or part the execution of the laws and regulations, after having on all occasions deliberated with the Colonial Prefect or the Commissary of Justice, according to the